

Another aspect of the orally administering the dosage comprises administering a multilayer tablet comprising at least one layer of sustained release carbidopa-levodopa adjacent to at least one layer of immediate release carbidopa-levodopa. If desired, the layers in tablet are separated by an excipient layer.

Another aspect of the invention therefore concerns a pharmaceutical composition in oral dosage form for treating Parkinson's disease, which comprises a combination of an immediate release portion of a combination of carbidopa and levodopa and a sustained release portion of a combination of carbidopa and levodopa and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle. The composition is effective in treating Parkinson's disease. The dosage form is such that carbidopa and levodopa are available for immediate and sustained therapeutic action upon administration. The pharmaceutical composition can be in a dosage form that comprises a sustained release core portion of carbidopa and levodopa overcoated by an immediate release layer of carbidopa and levodopa. The pharmaceutical composition can also be in a dosage form that comprises a multilayer tablet which comprises at least one layer of sustained release carbidopa-levodopa adjacent to at least one layer of immediate release carbidopa-levodopa.

In the pharmaceutical composition, in dosage form, an immediate release portion comprises about 10-25 mg of carbidopa and 50-200 mg of levodopa and a sustained release portion comprises about 25-75 mg of carbidopa and 100-400 mg of levodopa. The pharmaceutical composition in dosage form can comprise a sustained release core portion of carbidopa-levodopa overcoated by an immediate release layer of carbidopa-levodopa. The pharmaceutical composition in the dosage form can comprise a multilayer tablet of at least one layer of sustained release carbidopa-levodopa adjacent to at least one layer of immediate release carbidopa-levodopa.

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